

Blue Lake Township

Kalkaska County, Michigan

10599 Twin Lake Rd. N.E.
Mancelona, MI 49659
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SENATE BILL 396 OPPOSITION

WHEREAS, Roads are the backbone to the social, cultural and economic stability of Blue Lake Township, Kalkaska County and the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB) 396 passed and reported out of the Senate Transportation Committee on September 6, 2018 allows exemptions from seasonal weight restrictions (aka "frost laws") to the forest product industry during the spring thaw when roads are the most vulnerable to damage from heavy loads; and

WHEREAS, It is a fact in Blue Lake Township, Kalkaska County and throughout the northern states that roads become soft in the spring and applying unrestricted 164,000-pound truck loading on soft roads, is fool hardiness that defies common sense and a law allowing such nonsense is poor public policy; and

WHEREAS, SB-396, and any future amendments, also grants exemptions to the forest industry that will allow the hauling of forest products and transport of equipment on the public road system without obtaining proper permits from road authorities at all times of the year; and

WHEREAS, the provisions from SB 396, and any future amendments, will result in damage to the public road system; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of SB 396, and any future amendments, will negatively impact the traveling public accessing the road system, resulting in burdening road authorities with expensive reactive maintenance repairs and significantly increased taxpayer costs to maintain the public road system; and

WHEREAS, the provisions in SB 396, and any future amendments, and subsequent impacts to the local road system will negatively impact the health, safety and welfare of Blue Lake Township residents, Kalkaska County residents and the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, Blue Lake Township and the other townships throughout the State of Michigan work closely with the logging industry to keep the economic vitality of the Townships, Counties and the State of Michigan moving by continuously monitoring road conditions and permitting the logging industry to move equipment and material on roads when the roads can structurally support such loading without negatively impacting the road system and traveling public;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Blue Lake Township hereby strongly opposes SB 396, and any future amendments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a vote hereon be taken by aye and nay and spread at large on the minutes of the Board.

Sincerely,

Blue Lake Township, Kalkaska County MI Board

Blair Shearer, Supervisor

Tracy Nichol, Clerk

Christine Almose, Treasurer

Mary Shaw, Trustee

Larry Shoemaker, Trustee